



Rural Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Initiative

Background and Authority

Despite progress made to reduce clandestine drug labs through precursor chemical legislation and Mexico's restrictions on ephedrine, methamphetamine production, distribution, and use remains a widespread problem. Meth affects rural America in particular, taxing already limited and over-burdened law enforcement, treatment, and public health resources. In response to meth remaining the largest drug problem in most rural states, Strategic Applications International (SAI), in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, is launching the ***Rural Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Initiative***.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this 2-year project will address the unique challenges of rural jurisdictions to:

- Interdict illegal drugs and drug manufacturing/drug distribution networks in collaboration with local, tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies
- Leverage other enforcement efforts such as homeland security, traffic safety, drug recognition program, human trafficking and border control in jurisdictions with limited resources
- Provide access to effective prevention, treatment, and recovery services
- Develop and implement gang reduction strategies related to drug trafficking for rural areas
- Encourage partnerships at the local, state, and national levels to engage key stakeholders beyond the enforcement community to assist in the successful implementation of enforcement strategies

To do this, SAI will:

- Conduct on-site state assessments in up to ten rural states
- Host the *National Rural Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Summit* to mobilize rural states regarding best practices and intelligence-led policing approaches
- Develop and implement state-specific action plans in up to ten rural states including: hiring and assigning State Meth Coordinators to oversee the process and provide expert training and technical assistance; utilizing Methpedia.org as the Initiative website and clearinghouse; and conducting webinars and podcasts.
- Conduct an initiative evaluation in partnership with Pacific Institute for Research and evaluation.

The following rural states, as defined by BJA, are eligible to apply to be part of this new initiative.

Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	Colorado	Idaho	Kansas	Maine	Montana	Nevada
New	North	Oklahoma	Oregon	South	Utah	Vermont	Wyoming	
Mexico	Dakota			Dakota				

For additional information
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